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DICTIONARY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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and
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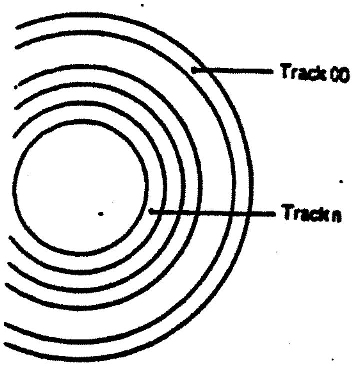
s:ction Processing System. See
processing.

·t In a packet switching network,
it causes a report, on each stage of
· through the network, to be trans-
he network control station. See
ıntrol station.

recording and computing, a path
n data is recorded, on a continuous
ial medium, e.g. magnetic tape,
isk. In video recording the track is
ı the tape. In magnetic disks the
ırded on a series of circular tracks.
:ctor. See helical scan, transverse



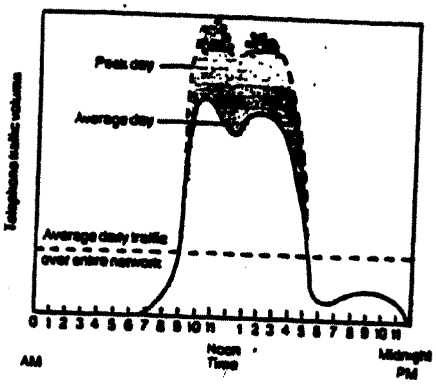
:ion of tracks on a floppy disk.

In video recording, the adjust
e relative position of the rotating
ıead with the recorded track.

ıach In computing, a measure of
y of tracks on a magnetic disk.
ks typically have upwards from 48
rd disk systems have up to 400
ıpy disk, hard disk, magnetic

:n printers, a feed mechanism
ɔmprising a short, continuous
. with teeth that engage in the
oles of continuous stationery. See
:ed.

communications, the signals or
messages handled by a communications system.



traffic
A typical telephone traffic pattern at a local office.

traffic analysis In communications, a detailed study of a communication system's traffic. It includes a statistical analysis of message headings, receipts and acknowledgements, routings etc., plus a study of the time variations in the volume of traffic and the type of traffic.

traffic matrix In communications, a matrix that records the volume of traffic in a network. The quantity at element (p,q) is a measure of the traffic volume from node p to node q. See node, traffic.

traffic operator position system See traffic service position system.

traffic service position system In telephony, a stored program computer equipped with telephone operator consoles and designed to facilitate the handling of calls requiring operator intervention.

trailer microfiche In micrographics, a microfiche holding the remaining images of multipage document when the total number of pages exceeds the image area capacity of a single microfiche. See microfiche.

trail printer In word processing, a printer which is shared between work stations.

transaction driven system In computing, a mode of operation in which the arrival of a transaction causes an interrupt of batch processing activities as resources are diverted to deal with the transaction. See batch processing, transaction processing.

transaction processing In computing, a mode of computer usage in which the user enters data and commands from a remote terminal, often over a communication link. The results of the actions are displayed on the terminal. A similar mode of action to multi-access computing; it is often employed when the user is operating with a specific application package. Compare batch processing, multi-access computing. See on line.

transceiver In communications, (1) a radio transmitter and receiver unit in one housing and employing some common circuits, normally used for portable or mobile operations. (2) a terminal device that can both transmit and receive signals.

transcoder In television, a device to convert color standards, typically from PAL to SECAM and vice versa. See video standards.

transcribe In office systems, to produce a written copy of recorded, or dictated, material in longhand or on a typewriter.

transcriber In computing, the device used to convert the information from a given language of an information recording system to the language of the computer and vice versa.

transcription In office systems, to copy information from one medium to another, or to produce typed copy from a recorded dictation.

transducer In electronics, a device that receives a signal in one physical form and produces an output in another, usually electrical, e.g. a thermocouple produces a voltage proportional to the temperature of the thermocouple junction.

transfer In computing, (1) to copy a block of information and write it into another part of memory. (2) to change control.

transformational coding In computing and communications, the application of a strict

ten's complement The decimal number resulting from the subtraction of a number from the next highest integral power of 10, e.g. the ten's complement of 69 is 100-69=31. See one's complement, nine's complement, two's complement.

tera A trillion, i.e. 10 to the power 12.

terahertz In communications, a frequency of one million megahertz.

term (1) A word or expression that has a precise meaning, in some uses, or is peculiar to a science, art, profession or subject. (2) In library science, a subject heading or descriptor in an index. See descriptor, heading, index.

term bank In databases, a database of terms for specialized vocabularies, stored on a computer, which can provide an on line service and from which mono-, bi- and multilingual dictionaries can be produced as well as a range of glossaries and word lists. A facility that can be employed in machine aided translation but monolingual term banks also have applications areas, e.g. by Standards Organizations.

terminal (1) In communications and computing, an input output device for transmitting and receiving data on a communication line. (2) In electronics, a point for the connection to an electrical unit. (3) In communications, a point in the system where information can be transmitted or received.

terminal handler In communications, a part of a data network that services simple, character stream terminals.

terminal identity In viewdata, codes transmitted by a viewdata terminal to the host computer to establish the identity, and hence authorization, of the user. See viewdata.

terminal interface In computing and communications, the codes and hardware used to control an input output device, or terminal.

terminological data bank See term bank.

ternary A system with three possible states. Compare binary.

tertiary color In printing, a color produced by the combination of two secondary colors. See secondary color.

test data In computing, data developed specifically to test a program or computer system.

test pattern In television, a pattern designed for checking linearity, contrast, resolution and color of a TV receiver.

text (1) In word processing, a set of alphanumeric characters which convey information. (2) In communications, the information content of a message.

text compression In data communications, pertaining to the elimination of redundant data, e.g. leading zeros, trailing blanks, from a message. See huffman code.

text editing In computing and word processing, the insertion, deletion, movement, correction and copying of stored text. See text editor.

text editor In computing, a program that enables a user to modify and copy programs and text files in a versatile manner. Characters and strings can be inserted, modified, deleted and moved throughout the text. In many cases it is possible to locate automatically a specific string, and to replace every instance of one string by another. See line editor, screen editor.

text move In word processing, the ability to select a portion of text from a stored document and move it to a new position in that, or another, stored document. See text editor.

text processing See word processing.

text retrieval In information retrieval, a computer based system in which the user is provided with a printout, or display, of all or parts of the relevant documents instead of merely references to them. Legal literature was the first field to be covered in this way.